



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Event Descriptions

*Events marked with an asterisk require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

Unless otherwise stated, programs begin at the visitor center.

HUNTING occurs on the refuge throughout October, November, and December. Trails may be closed and gunshots are likely to be heard. DO NOT BE ALARMED.

BLUE GOOSE BUS TOUR

Join a ranger and enjoy access to closed areas of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

NATURE TOTS

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult for nature crafts, stories, and outdoor fun!

SWAMPERS

Children ages 6-12 are invited to join a refuge ranger for a swampin' good time! Topics vary each month.

OWL PROWL

Experience the refuge at night! Explore the world of owls and learn about their amazing adaptations on this guided hike through the forest.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ART COMPETITION

Join us at Maumee Bay State Park for this annual art competition. Enjoy amazing artwork, demonstrations, and activities for the whole family.

REFUGE RANGER STATION DEDICATION

Join the refuge in celebrating the legacy of conservationist and former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee, Bob Hines, as we dedicate the new environmental education building in his honor.

CARS FOR CRITTERS CAR SHOW

Sponsored by Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association, this car show raises funds for wildlife rehabilitation and environmental education. DJ Cruisin Zeake, Back to the Wild, great food, and hot air balloon rides are just part of the fun!

BIG SIT

Celebrate Refuge Week with manager Jason Lewis for his annual BIG SIT at the mouth of Crane Creek along the Estuary Trail. Park at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

HIKE THE DIKES

"Hike the Dikes" is a cooperative program with Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Attend three hikes and earn a hiking stick! *Meet at the Magee Marsh Sportsman's Migratory Bird Center.*

SELF-GUIDED AUTO TOUR

Enjoy the refuge from the comfort of your car! The 7 mile route departs from the visitor center parking lot. Gates open at 8:00 am and close at 4:00 pm.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING WORKSHOP

This event is geared for the new waterfowl hunter. Learn about waterfowl ID, decoy setups, blinds, boats, and cooking. Registration forms are available at the visitor center and on our website.

CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:
October 5, 6, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26
November 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27

ESTUARY TRAIL CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER ARCHERY HUNT

September 30—October 4, October 7—11,
December 9—13, December 16—20

SOME REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER GUN HUNT

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:
November 23, 24 & December 2, 3, 4, 5

ALL REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER HUNT PREVIEW DAY

Prepare for a successful hunt by scoping out your hunting unit ahead of time.

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEYS

Join a refuge volunteer and become a citizen scientist the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.

Meet at the trailhead parking area.

14th ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST DISPLAY

Enjoy the splendor of your federal lands through this annual photo contest display. Categories include Birds, Wildlife, Landscapes, and People.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate the holiday season while enjoying a warm fire, festive music, kids crafts, and good company. Enter to win a gift basket too!



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Calendar of Events

September—December, 2013

Sunday, September 1

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Monday, September 2

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Saturday, September 7

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Saturday, September 14

9am— Hike the Dikes

1pm-4pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

September 19—22

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Thursday, September 26

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

3pm— Refuge Ranger Station Dedication

Friday, September 27

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

9am-5pm— Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition

Saturday, September 28

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

8am-12pm— Federal Duck Stamp Art Competition

8:30am-2:30pm— Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop

Sunday, September 29

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

9am-3pm— Cars for Critters Car Show

Saturday, October 5

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

October 6—20

9am-4pm— 14th Annual Photo Contest Display

Sunday, October 6

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Thursday, October 10

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Sunday, October 13

Sunrise-3pm— Big Sit

Monday, October 14

Columbus Day: Visitor Center Closed

Tuesday, October 15

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Sunday, October 20

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Sunday, October 27

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Friday, November 1

8pm— Owl Prowl*

Saturday, November 2

8am-2pm— Controlled Deer Hunt Preview Day

9am— Hike the Dikes

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, November 3

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Monday, November 11

Veterans Day: Visitor Center Closed

Friday, November 15

5-7pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, November 16

5-7pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Sunday, November 17

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Thursday, November 21

1pm-4pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

5-7pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving: Visitor Center Closed

Sunday, December 1

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Saturday, December 7

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, December 8

9:30am-12:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

12pm-4pm— Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 21

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Sunday, December 22

8am-4pm— Self Guided Auto Tour

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas: Visitor Center Closed

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day: Visitor Center Closed



Members Only Events:

Saturday, November 9

9:30am-12pm— Darby Marsh & Blausey Unit Bus Tour*

Saturday, December 14

9:30am-12:30pm— Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Tour*

Membership information is available at the visitor center information desk.